

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 6, please replace paragraph 3 with the following amended paragraph:

It will be understood that for any given rotor, efficiency of degassing will be determined, *inter alia*, by the speed of rotation, the gas flow rate and treatment time. A preferred rotation speed is 550 rpm or less and more preferably ~~400 rpm~~<sup>400 rpm</sup> or less, most preferably about 350 rpm. It will also be understood that for any given rotor, the size and geometry of the holding vessel containing the molten metal will influence the optimum or preferred rotor speed.

Page 14, please replace paragraph 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The comparative Example 4 rotor is the least efficient degasser. It takes longer to achieve a low density index compared with the other two rotors and the lowest value obtained, 2.5% after 15 minutes, is markedly higher than can be achieved by the other two rotors, ~~<0.75~~<sup><0.75%</sup> after 5 minutes.